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#### BIRTHS.

On December 2, 1908, at Amoy, to Dr. and Mrs. C. E. BLAIR, London Mission, Tiegchow, a son.

#### MARRIAGE.

On December 17, 1908, at Shanghai, by the Rev. A. J. Walker, M.A., JOHN WILLIAM BURTWELL, of London, to ANNIE CORBETT, of London.

#### DEATH.

On December 16, 1908, at Shanghai, EGAS AUGUSTO, aged one year and four months, beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Lobos.

#### AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The Superintendents and Sisters of the Italian Convent desire to express their GRATEFUL THANKS to their NUMEROUS FRIENDS for their expressions of sympathy with the Convent in the irreparable loss recently sustained by the death of Sister MARIA ALLANSON.

## The Hongkong Telegraph.

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.  
ISSUED GRATIS TO SUBSCRIBERS.

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1908.

### MISPLACED CONFIDENCE.

(19th December.)

When an individual blatantly declares that he is a cosmopolitan, a citizen of the world, the average man is apt to regard him with a certain amount of suspicion, for it is not in the nature of things that people should inferentially disown their nationality. But according to the Chief Justice, who still retains his happy knack of introducing extraneous questions into his judgments, very much after the fashion of the writer who introduces an anecdote to point and adorn a dreary dissertation on metaphysics, there may be in Hongkong residents who, so far as nationality is concerned, are possessed of neither the one nor the other. There are also residents who are cursed with the possession of a double nationality, which is the way of the world all over. One man has more than enough and another has nothing whatever. As the reader may surmise, this interesting subject arose in connection with a bankruptcy suit involving the eternal question of domicile, with which, fortunately, we have nothing to do. The debtor had apparently claimed that he was a native of Hongkong, and consequently a British subject. In order to substantiate this claim he submitted a

certificate bearing the signature of Sir George Bowen, who was then Governor of Hongkong, and dated 21st July, 1884. That certificate was given under the seal of the Colony and was to the effect that having examined two affidavits of birth His Excellency was satisfied that the debtor in the action now before the Court was born in the Colony and therefore that he believed him to be a British subject. So far it is all plain sailing. A Chinaman claims that he was born in the Colony; two others swear that to their certain knowledge the statement is correct; the Governor, seeing no reason to doubt the fact and acting under permissive instructions from the Secretary of State set forth in a despatch dated August, 1862, grants the application that the claimant be recognised as a British subject and signs a certificate to that effect. Proud in his possession of the parchment, which bears the formidable seal of the Colony, the Chinaman deposits it in his family archives and probably forgets all about it. Four-and-twenty years after having, to the satisfaction of the head of the Government of the Colony, shown his title to be regarded as a British subject, the owner of the certificate finds himself in financial difficulties and for certain reasons is required to give proof of his nationality. Naturally he produces the official document which was signed, sealed and delivered in 1884, and his creditors are perfectly content with it, the very seal probably frightening them into submission. The debtor is a British subject and, as they say in America, "that's all there is to it." But when the debtor comes into Court a surprise awaits him. Not only does the judge view the document with suspicion and cavil at the simplicity of a former Governor who trusted to the affidavits of two witnesses, and regard with something akin to scorn the imprimatur of the seal, but he actually holds that the certificate of birth is worthless. It is no value whatever in an English port for any legal purpose. It is a mere trumpery slip of waste paper, good enough for children to admire and preserve but absurd as evidence in a court of justice. By whom were the affidavits made anyway? Besides, even if the certificate was regular in respect to the sworn testimony, it should have been issued by the Registrar-General. The Chief Justice did not go the length of declaring that because the Governor exercised the functions of Registrar-General the certificate was necessarily invalidated, but that would appear to be a fair presumption, although it is difficult to understand why a document signed, sealed and certified by the chief authority of the Colony from whom all power radiates—the Chief Justice being probably the only official who is not directly under the control of the Governor—should be of less value than one issued by a subordinate. But even if the Registrar-General had exercised the functions of his office in granting a certificate of birth, the Chief Justice did not think that even then the entries in his registers would be conclusive evidence of the facts. It would have been interesting to learn what further proof His Honour does expect to receive when questions as to the birthplace of a suitor do crop up in Court? The Chief Justice complains that all the certificate contained was an expression of the Governor's belief that the debtor was born in Hongkong. Was it to be expected that Sir George Bowen should declare positively that he first open his eyes and squall vociferously on British soil? We should not envy the position of any Governor or even any Registrar-General whose functions included attendance on the delicate occasions when children are ushered into this weary world. As we have endeavoured to show, His Honour viewed the birth certificate bearing the Governor's sign-manual as valueless. What would constitute proof of birth in the Colony in the event of a question of identity being raised? The other day a gentleman named Albert Kirby Fairfax, a native of the United States, submitted a claim to the House of Lords claiming "the title, honour and dignity of Lord Fairfax of Cameron in the peerage of Scotland." The Lord Chancellor and three Law Lords, together with other peers, heard the claim. Counsel for the claimant stated that nearly the whole family papers that would have been useful in establishing the claim had been lost or destroyed during the American Civil War. In those circumstances, it was necessary to have recourse to secondary evidence, and the only record which could be produced was the Fairfax family Bible. Apparently there were no other papers except the photograph of a tombstone and some family letters, but on the motion of the Lord Chancellor the right of the claimant to the peerage was held to have been established, and Lord Fairfax takes rank with the Scottish nobles. Now, would the simple fact that a certain entry appeared in a family Bible be accepted as conclusive evidence in favour of a suitor in Hongkong? If the alleged son of this Chinese debtor had to submit proof of his father's birthplace in order to secure an inheritance would a family record suffice? Apparently not, if all that could be produced was a certificate signed by the Governor and stamped with the seal of the Colony. He would be told to hunt up the gentlemen who swore to the affidavits and after having resurrected the gentlemen he would have the satisfaction of learning that an official document issued in Hongkong is of no legal value in a Hongkong court of justice. Then again, a Chinaman who is a natural born subject of King Edward, might fancy that he would secure a greater degree of attention and protection if having claimed and received his papers from the Governor of the Colony he proceeded to Saigon, we will say, and asserted

himself to be a British subject, producing his birth certificate in proof of his claim. That, according to the Chief Justice, shows the danger of issuing such certificates. One never knows what a foreigner will do and as His Honour very properly said these certificates were sometimes used by foreign consuls for use in foreign ports. And he added, "It may well be that, being under the seal of the Colony, they would receive a larger measure of credence so far as the fact of birth is concerned than they are entitled to." It is deplorable to imagine that a document, signed by the highest authority in the Colony, but which is nevertheless utterly worthless in Hongkong, should actually impose upon foreigners. What is the world coming to? Of course, it should be remembered that this was the first time the learned Chief Justice had ever seen such a certificate of birth, but his animadversions on its character should be well digested by Governors and Registrars-General before they again play ducks and drakes with official papers, affidavits and colonial seals. Still it is curious that if these certificates are valueless in Hongkong the Home Government continues to put a certain amount of faith in them, for when the subject of engaging Chinese seamen in British ports was on the tapis some time ago it was distinctly laid down that the Government had no power to interfere with those Chinese hands who had been born in Hongkong or Singapore. We started by observing that while some people disclaim any nationality there are others who are burdened with an extra supply. There are apparently in Hongkong recipients of certificates declaring them to be British subjects who are at the same time subjects of the Son of Heaven—"unfortunate victims of double nationality" is the Chief Justice's expression. Conversely there are in all probability Chinese who are of no nationality whatever. What it all amounts to the reader is at liberty to figure out for himself. It should prove a pleasant Sunday afternoon pastime.

### TWO SIDES OF THE QUESTION.

While questions affecting the nationality and domicile of our Chinese neighbours are on the carpet, it may not be inappropriate to compare the views of two Britishers in different spheres of life respecting Chinese inclinations. In the early part of this week the Chief Justice of Hongkong, discussing a matter of domicile, maintained that there was hardly a hundred pukka Chinese domiciled in Hongkong. In another judgment delivered later His Honour went further and said that in his belief hardly any Chinaman who is merely a trader here ever takes himself away root and branch from his family village in China which is what is required to establish a domicile in this Colony; the whole idea of a permanent establishment in Hongkong with a fixed determination never to return to the ancestral village, otherwise than as a visitor seems to me inconsistent with the normal ideas of a Chinaman. Now we will submit the opinion of a representative Far Eastern merchant, Mr. A. H. Drew, who has had a varied experience of Chinese in the Straits Settlements. Speaking at the annual Straits dinner, held in London in November last, Mr. Drew referred to the amicable relations existing between the British merchants and the Chinese traders who had come as immigrant coolies to the Straits Settlements. He remarked: "The Chinese come to us as labourers, they stay with us as traders, many of them, and many of our most respected citizens are the sons and grandsons of the original settlers, and we find among these men our most wealthy ship-owners and merchants. Those of the Chinese race born in the Colony are as proud of their nationality as anyone in this room, and they are even more loyal to the Colony than men of British birth, for when they have made their competency they are willing to spend the rest of their days in the place where they have found so much prosperity."

That certainly conflicts with the view held by the Chief Justice. Yet Mr. Drew was speaking of what he has learned from personal contact with the Chinese and to clinch matters he spoke of the continued immigration of Chinese to the Straits. If the Chinese did not desire to settle down in the Straits, if they had no regard for the British flag, if they found themselves badly treated, they might long for the delights of China, and disavow their friends from emigrating to British territory, but when they have acquired a competency and remember the "squeeze pigskin" to which they would be subjected by mandarin cupid should they return to China and compare the conditions with those existing in their native villages, they adopt the wisest course and decide to remain where they are. They do more, they invite their compatriots to follow their example and seek their fortunes on the hospitable shores of the British Empire. Mr. Drew in pointing out this fact remarked: "You will, probably, be surprised to find that in the present depressed condition of the Colony, and although for four months of this year quarantine regulations were in force which seriously affected the immigration, during the last eight months, we have had 400 Chinamen landing in Singapore every day, and in the times of prosperity we have had as many as 600." We wonder how many of these immigrants retain their domicile in their native villages and hold a fixed determination to return and settle down in their ancestral homes when they have won their way to success? Not many, if all reports be true, despite the assertion of His Honour the Chief Justice of Hongkong. It may be said that the conditions in Hongkong are altogether different from those in Singapore. It may be so, but many people and the difference between them

### ANOTHER VIEW OF THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

(21st December.)

Some years ago when the next question of bimetalism was the chief subject of debate in political circles both in the United Kingdom and the United States, Mr. Balfour, in his apt, nonchalant way, observed that he knew as much about bimetalism as the child unborn. The Shavian remark attracted attention, especially at a time when every other statesman was grappling and wrangling with the intricacies of a subject which concerns the world at large, but the underlying suggestion that the question was subject to no ordered calculations and could not be determined by any arbitrary laws was fully admitted except by the most rabid exponents of opposite views. All that any legislator could hope to achieve was the adoption of measures which would restrain the extent of silver fluctuations and, as it were, standardise the relation between silver and gold. How long this question has been under review it would be difficult to say, but the fact stands that the vagaries of silver are just as exasperating and incomprehensible and, what is worse, ungovernable by simple methods of legislation as they were when Mr. Bryan first made bimetalism the principal plank in his election platform. Every nation which exercises a commanding power in the disposition of the world's wealth has engaged financial experts to discover a solution of the problem but so far without avail. The importance of the question to-day lies in the growing commercial power of China, combined with the need of American merchants to find an outlet for their superfluous wares in Asia. It is recognised that the exigencies of trade require the contraction of the limits of variation to which silver is liable, but the difficulty is to find the soil which will bear the erection of those barriers. No metal is so sensitive as silver, and from all that can be seen no power is capable of definitely fixing its intrinsic value in countries such as China and India which are dependent to a great extent on natural causes for their prosperity. Nevertheless, the United States Government has again decided to see what can be done, to relieve what in other circumstances would be deemed an intolerable situation and a Monetary Commission has been appointed to examine and report on the subject. An American senator has written to Mr. McKim-Frewen giving his views on silver values, and the latter has passed on the communication to the various "Chambers of Commerce" in the Far East for their views, soliciting a statement which could be submitted to the Washington Commission. As the members of the Commission do not propose to conclude their labours until 1910, and consequently the report need not be expected before 1912, there is ample time for all those who have any opinion of value to the other to set out their views. It would be decidedly unfortunate if the Far Eastern point of view was inadequately represented, because the real storm centre has shifted from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Western to the Eastern hemisphere. The trouble is, of course, that no two people are reconciled even on the mainheads of the problem. Apparently Mr. Frewen has offered to submit to the Commission "the latest returns he can procure in England as to prices and wages in the Orient." Mr. Frewen is certainly endowed with more than the usual quantum of courage and tenacity if he presumes to the Commission a statement as to prices and wages in the Far East founded on facts collected in England. No doubt there are many importers and exporters in the old country who take the trouble to understand the conditions prevailing in the Oriental labour market, but we are afraid the number must be comparatively small. The difficulty experienced by the average Britisher is to get away from the gold background and to set up silver as the intermediary of barter. Indeed, it might be said that it is hardly possible to realise all the complexities of the subject until one has lived in silver countries and attempted to make both ends meet on a white currency. The very people who should know something about the effects of an abnormal demand for silver in China, or a famine in India are often the last to see why their pockets should be concerned. The curious point from the standpoint of Westerners, is that when silver is high exporters in the United Kingdom and America are inundated with orders from the Orient, whereas when silver is low a stimulus is given to the exports of Asia, and Western products are comparatively neglected. It is the undoubted object of the American senator to enhance the value of the white metal for several reasons. First, we will say, to foster trade in the Orient; second, to restrain the energies of Chinese producers; and third, to attain that halcyon state when manufacturers can gauge their probable outlays with some exactitude ahead of their dealings. The American writer puts it clearly when he says: "If silver prices and wages do not rise, and gold prices and wages do rise, it is quite clear that owing to the pressure of Asiatic exports, industry after industry now employing white working men must close down to be replaced in the world's economy by mills and factories manned with yellow labour in Asia; in short the labour cost of what Asia manufactures for export has been already cut in half by the reduction in the gold price of silver. Possibly the interests of the people of India are subserved by these low exchanges with closed mints; certainly the industries of China, where no mints are closed are being stimulated by low exchanges, and already China has commenced to manufacture steel, but that a great drilled Government should be making a profit as to-day

of 50 per cent. by selling currency of unlimited legal tender to three hundred million of its citizens; that the currency of India should be manipulated as to-day by a few officials, whose purchases or non-purchases of silver bullion elevate or depress all the world's exchanges in China—this is so opposed to every theory of your own economists that I must now venture to press the point further." From that it will be seen that the whole aim and object of the senator is to defeat Asiatic activities. He does not take into consideration the fact that if the people of China find it impossible to compete with American exporters and their producing power is diminished they are necessarily unable to purchase the surplus stock of America imported into China. The importing ability of China has to be balanced against her exports and it is not enough to say that if the price of silver bullion were raised and the rates of exchange raised, Asia would make unlimited purchases from those countries where the value of gold was enhanced and wages were advancing. Nor is it sufficient to declare that the formation of immense gold reserves in the great financial centres would neutralise the effects of bad seasons, droughts, floods, famines, seditions, etc. If this plan of building up gold reserves, known as the Goschen plan, were adopted, says the senator, "by one, two or three nations of the first rank it would go far to settle both the silver question and the gold question, at least for a generation to come. But here we are again met with the Indian difficulty. Our purchases of silver to secure the Goschen notes would certainly advance the price of silver to eighty-six cents per ounce (43 pence). At that point the Government of India might decide to melt up and sell rupees; that is to say at 86 cents per ounce the bullion value of the rupee would equal its present exchange value (16 pence) so that in the deliberations of our Commission we must at once confront this point; if we approve the Goschen plan, with or without Great Britain and Germany, will the Government of India consent to re-open their mints when the price of silver bullion has risen to eighty-six cents per ounce?" Well, all we can say is that if, when the intrinsic value of the rupee advanced beyond its ten value, the Government of India stood supinely by, and watched the natives throwing their silver money into the melting pot, then there would be a chance for a few of us to make that fortune which we are all working for. The American senator has the Indian Government on the brain. He will not admit that the Indian Government is just as much bound by the silver market in its currency as other parts of the world and China in particular. All that the Indian Government can do is to follow the requirements of trade in India, and if London, New York and Berlin can advance the price of silver India will be compelled to take steps to preserve its financial equilibrium; which in this case would mean a reduction in the fineness of the rupee. The whole question is—Can the Occident restrain Oriental activities by artificial arrangements? If the feat can be achieved without the co-operation of the Asiatic countries concerned then it might be tried, but it would be interesting to observe how the arrangement worked when nature had her periodical convulsions. The Chamber of Commerce did not attempt to deal with the subject, and they were quite right. Whatever they might say from an Oriental point of view would be disregarded, because the crux of the matter is the development of America's exporting trade across the Pacific, and not the development of Chinese industrial interests which are of as much importance to Hongkong as the command of the Pacific trade is to the Western States of America.

### BLAZING HONGKONG'S REPUTATION.

One of the individuals who holds the opinion that the world owes him a living has been living lately on the gullibility of the Chinese in that centre of probity and virtue, Kansas City. The usual American picture of the Chinese is drawn in lurid colours to indicate the depths of depravity and cunning trickery to which they will descend in order to fleece the simple Simons of the great Republic. So that when a number of Chinese is outwitted by the superior roguery of others who do not belong to the Chinese race there is but little sympathy shown for the victims. If, on the other hand, Americans are the dupes it is sound policy to raise an outcry against Asiatic slinkiness. According to a recently published issue of the San Francisco Call a foreigner has been trading on the self-preservation instincts of the Chinese in upright and virtuous Kansas City and has been so successful that he is regarded as a sort of hero. At least he would have been canonised if his record had been a trifle less flamboyant. What lends interest to the tale is the fact that the schemer declares himself to be a native of Hongkong. But, it may be stated at once, that he left the Colony long before he arrived at the years of discretion, so that he lost all the refining influences, high-minded principles, and love of rectitude which are to be found in those who have lived in this Colony for a few years. He departed from Hongkong when "a mere boy." The results are believed to say that if they have charge of a boy during the first six years of his life they can mould his character to any form they desire. Harry S. Reardon, alias Spencer, alias Taylor, alias half a dozen other names, must have left the Colony before the six years were up, but he still remembered his association with the Chinese in his early days. According to the Call, Harry for several weeks posed as an official Chinese interpreter of the New York courts; but finding that

slow work he assumed the role of Government Inspector of Chinese in Kansas City. From the data in possession of the police it appears that Harry is an ex-convict having served terms in at least two prisons. His picture has been published in all the Chinese papers of New York, Chicago and San Francisco, with a warning to all Chinamen to look out for him. That he is a man of undoubted intelligence and cunning is shown from his record, which reads like a chapter from a yellow-backed novel. According to his own statement, says an American writer who probably has the gift of imagination, Harry was born in Hongkong, his father being American and his mother Portuguese. He went to San Francisco when a mere boy and since that time, if information in possession of the authorities is to be believed, he has devoted most of his time to duping and fleecing Chinamen in various parts of the country. It has been his method to represent himself as a Chinese Government Inspector and to sell the more ignorant class of celestial "chuck tea," or Chinese certificates of residence, which they are required by law to have and the absence of which makes them subject to deportation. From his knowledge of these men and his own alleged connection, in many instances in smuggling them into the United States, it has been his method to go to them and threaten them with immediate arrest unless they paid him a certain price for his silence and his worthless certificate. In this way it is estimated that he has fleeced Chinamen from the Atlantic to the Pacific out of thousands of dollars, his price being gauged in every case by what he estimated the victim was able to pay. It is also believed that he was connected with the murder of a wealthy Chinese merchant, named Wong Chee Lok, in Chicago. At all events, Harry Reardon, etc., is not likely to drag the name of Hongkong in the dust for some little time to come if the charges against him can be substantiated. The interesting part of the story is the impersonal way in which the American writer tells the story. To him, the swindling of the Chinese is not what might be called a "feature"; it is a mere incident in the day's work. Had it been the other way about we should probably have heard that the yellow peril had arrived and the Chinese advance guard of the thug brigade had commenced operations.

### THE BRITISH AND CHINESE CORPORATION.

(22nd December.)

Ten years have now elapsed since the British and Chinese Corporation began those operations which have contributed in a marked degree to the development of railway extensions throughout China and, at the present time, give abundant promise of even enhanced prospects in the future. Although the name of the British and Chinese Corporation figures so large in connection with every railway scheme projected in the Chinese Empire—and that of its principal representative, Mr. J. O. P. Bland, is continually in evidence wherever a commanding position in the affairs of a foreign country is held by the British and Chinese Corporation in China, but that the confidence of the Chinese high administrators has been thoroughly justified and retained is manifest in the close relations which subsist at the present time. To begin with, the Corporation started well; it started under the auspices of one of the two princely houses in the Far East, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., and the premier banking institution of the Orient, the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, so that "success" was practically assured from the outset, if the Chinese authorities would merely trust in the good faith of the promoters. When the Corporation was registered in London in 1908, the mercantile firm and the banking establishment had jointly entered into a number of preliminary contracts for loan issues in connection with railway construction in China, so that the Corporation entered upon its life of activity with a full cargo of responsibility. At that time, said Mr. Bland, addressing the Corporation's shareholders last month, "the Chinese had built a portion of the Peking-Tientsin-Shanghai-Newchwang Line, called the Northern Railway of China, and in 1899 our first loan was issued on the security of the railway and the guarantee of the Imperial Government. The issue was received with great favour, being more than four times over-subscribed, and the result indicated that investors were ready and indeed eager to finance such railway enterprises, and but for the untoward events in Peking and the self-foreign movement in many parts of China which so quickly followed the emission of the loan, the other railway loans provided for by the Corporation's agreements would have been marketed equally successfully, and with the same advantages to China and the Corporation. The effect, however, of the 'Pusian scare' and the 'Boxer rising' seriously affected Chinese credit, and for a time impeded loan issues, the partial destruction of the Northern Railway and its necessary occupation by foreign Powers producing a natural collapse of confidence. Notwithstanding these difficulties, the service of the loan was punctually met, and the railway eventually restored to the Chinese and its condition made good. This railway has since been developed into a magnificent asset of the Chinese Government, and is a monument to the practical talent, earnest zeal and persistent energy and effort of Mr. Bland, its founder and, engineer-in-chief. We need not enter into questions connected with the retirement of Mr. Bland in view of the tremendous commotion which the Times representative at Peking addressed to his journal and so very long ago; all that need be said is that Mr. Bland has left a record of brilliant



[illegible]











STAY OF EXECUTION GRANTED.

Japanese papers report that the Ministry of Finance, Tokyo, has suspended payment on the \$10 million loan to the bank of Mr. Hachinohe, President of the bank, came in a share speculation; looking ahead to the bank's future, Mr. Hachinohe, the manager, is looking for a way to make the bank a success. The bank's capital is only 100,000,000 yen.



## THE BANISHMENT ORDERS.

## A CHINESE MERCHANT'S RETURN.

One of the Chinese merchants, Chiu Shiu-pok, against whom a banishment order had been issued but who had not returned to the Colony, has since returned. Mr. Chiu is manager of the Kung Wo Hong, Beach Street West; his firm deals in general merchandise.

## SHANGHAI COMMENTS.

The following editorial comments appear in the *N. C. P. News* of 24th inst.—It is clear that the banishment orders recently pronounced by the Hongkong Government against certain prominent Chinese in the Colony, who were believed to have been indirectly connected with the riots that arose from the Japanese boycott, have been keenly felt by their co-nationals. Hongkong papers to date announce that a petition signed by 300 Chinese merchants has been presented to the Government on behalf of the exiles, who had already fled from the Colony before the warms for their arrest had reached them. The Government's reply was short and to the point. If the culprits would publish a full recantation of past errors and a faithful repudiation of all future connection with the boycott, as has been done in one case already, they should be permitted to return. At the time the mail closed it was not known whether this offer was accepted. The whole episode is interesting as a proof of the Hongkong Government's determination to check the boycott. No ulterior motive need be looked for in this determination. The plain fact is that boycotts are even worse for the life of the Colony than riots, and such decisive measures are certainly a step in the direction of crushing them. Meanwhile the Tokyo *Asahi* has opened a sharp attack on the Japanese Government for its incompetence before a movement which it describes as the public opinion of the Japanese interests. More than ten months have elapsed since the *Tatsu Maru* affair, yet the boycott drags on. It may be argued that the American boycott lasted longer, but the trade of America with China is but a small part of her business; whereas something like twenty per cent of Japan's total trade is done with China. Politically speaking, North China claims the lion's share of the Government's attention; but from a commercial point of view the South is far more important. Unfortunately the Japanese Government would appear to be totally ignorant of what goes on in the South. Thus far the *Asahi* and but for a repetition of the doubtful suggestion that certain outsiders are concerned in promoting the boycott, the article appears to be fully justified. It now remains that the Chinese authorities should realize that the boycott is hardly calculated to benefit their fellow-countrymen, and that it benefits the Japanese and where a foreign Government has been so long in it is difficult, considering the elastic nature of Chinese law, to suppose that the native officials may not follow.

## THE OPIUM QUESTION.

## INTERVIEW WITH COUNT OKUMA.

On Saturday, the 23rd inst., the Rev. E. W. Twining, of the International Reform Bureau, who is now on his way to attend the International Opium Conference at Shanghai, had an interview in Tokyo with Count Okuma. Count Okuma said—

"It is a pleasure to meet you and to know your great interest in many reforms. You speak of Japan being a leading nation in reform, and of our good laws against opium. I would say that we remember that America has given us great aid in many of these lines of progress. When our first laws in regard to opium were being considered we received much good advice from your statesmen. The principles and high ideals of America have been of much aid to our people. We owe much to your nation, and we rejoice in the good understanding and cordial relations between the people of Japan and the United States. This recently published agreement between our countries is the source of much satisfaction."

**THE MARCH OF WORLD CIVILIZATION.**

"The progress of civilization, enlightenment, and new ideas, seems to continue around the world. Much of the early civilization started from Asia, to enrich Greece and Rome. Europe in turn received from these sources the basis of modern learning, which has continued to increase in America. We have gladly received in our turn from the results of your progress and will gladly pass along what we have received to help along the progress and prosperity of Asia. The world nations are becoming nearer to one another now in the march of modern invention, until there will be no East or West and no great race differences. As we know each other better we find there is not so great a difference after all, and we as kindred men are coming to realize the true brotherhood of all people."

**OPIUM IN FORMOSA.**

"You ask of the opium conditions in Formosa. We have our difficult problems there, but we are seeking to solve them. We hope in time to thoroughly get rid of the evil of the opium habit. It is being reduced each year, and after ten years much has been accomplished. The work cannot be done so rapidly as we would wish, but we have an alien people, but with the Government monopoly the use of opium is every year decreasing, and old smokers are licensed and no new smokers are permitted. It may take fifteen years more to entirely overcome the evil habit." [From the particulars given in an article appearing in our issue of the 25th inst., it will be seen that the Count is quite in error in this statement.]

**OPIUM CAMPAIGN IN CHINA.**

"I believe China can accomplish the prohibition of opium. Her Government is sincere in the fight against the drug. She must stop the revenue from the opium and secure it from other sources. Much of that revenue is lost before it gets to the Government. China must prohibit the importation of opium; and the planting except for medicine under Government monopoly. It is a great task before her, but China will succeed. All nations should aid her. The large growing of opium in Szechuen and other provinces has caused much loss to the opium trade from India. That trade is being reduced, but now an excellent time for England to entirely stop opium production in India and the trade to China. England can do it and thus get a good name. Many of the people of Great Britain feel the shame of this war when opium was forced on China. Now is the time to aid China by stopping all opium from India to China."

"I think the Opium Conference may result in much good. Care must be taken not to interfere with China's own internal affairs. The work must be done in her own way. China has her own internal problems to work out, but other nations can help in the suppression of the opium traffic."

"I remember meeting Mr. Crafts of the International Reform Bureau, last year. I read his good letters to me on reform subjects, and I was very glad to have him publish them. I will be a pleasure in receiving other letters from you on these subjects, and I wish you every success in your work of reform for the betterment of mankind."—*Japan Chronicle*.

## GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

On Friday His Excellency received Captain Baron Rubin de Celis of H.M.S. Italian cruiser *Albatross*, who was accompanied by Comm. Volpicelli. Also Captain Ackermann of S.M.S. *Tiger*, German gunboat, and Dr. Vortsch, German consul, accompanied Capt. Ackermann.

On Saturday His Excellency inspected the Western defences of Hongkong. He was accompanied by Maj.-Gen. Broadwood, Col. Darling, Lt. Col. Chiamer and A.D.C.

There will be an official dinner at Government House to-night, to which the following guests have been invited—Korvettenkapitan Ackermann, Capt. Baird, D.S.O., and Mrs. Baird, Staff Surgeon and Mrs. Bais, Colonel Bedford, C.M.O., P.M.O., and Mrs. Bedford, Freizeutenkapitan Boedicker, Mr. and Mrs. Boulton, Commander Buchanan, Capt. Brierly, D.S.O., R.A., Capt. Baron, R. de Cervin, Mr. and Mrs. Montagu Eds. Dr. and Mrs. Evans Jones, Capt. and Mrs. Major Findlay, Rev. and Mrs. Francis, Dr. and Mrs. Gross, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hastings, Mr. King, Hongkong Police, Mr. and Mrs. Mackay, Miss Mutter, Mr. and Mrs. Scott, Capt. and Mrs. Wornholton, and Captain Wornbach.

The following received invitations but were unavoidably prevented from attending—Mr. and Mrs. Crofton, Fleet Surgeon and Mrs. Beadnell, Capt. Climo, R.A. Comdr d'Estienne, Hughes, Christian, Dr. and Mrs. Bellios and Mrs. Fox.

His Excellency this morning received Captain Baron W. Hohenberg of the Austro-Hungarian cruiser *Leopard* and Captain Marquis L. Cusani, Visconti of the Italian cruiser *Puglia*.

To-morrow at 11 a.m. His Excellency will receive Taotai Liang Lau-hsiu, the Chinese Consul-General of Australia, and also Mr. Harris, Commissioner of I. M. Customs.

## SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, LIMITED.

The report and accounts of the South China Morning Post, Limited, for presentation at the sixth ordinary meeting of shareholders to be held in the office of Dr. Noble, Bank Buildings, Queen's Road Central, Hongkong, on Wednesday, December 30th, states—

19th December, 1907.

Gentlemen,—The Directors beg to submit their report for the year ending August 31st, 1908.

The debit balance of the profit and loss account as per the last balance sheet was \$90,137.44. The profit for the year ending 31st August, 1908 is \$33,547.77.

Leaving a reduced debit to be carried forward of \$56,589.67.

The Directors, Dr. J. W. Noble, Messrs. G. O. Moxon, and J. S. Harston, retire according to clause 83 of the articles of association, but offer themselves for re-election.

J. W. NOBLE, Chairman, J. SCOTT HARSTON, Director.

## PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, for the year ended 31st August, 1908.

To depreciation written off machinery, type, metals, stores, furniture and library (averaging 7 per cent. per annum) .....	\$ 4,392.79
To directors' fees .....	9,000.00
To European employees' outward and homeward passage .....	1,050.56
To interest and exchange .....	1,443.47
Td balance being net profit for year .....	9,786.61
	\$43,431.39

By profit on trading account .....

By transfer fees .....

By profit on trading account .....

By transfer fees .....

By profit on trading account .....

By transfer fees .....

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By transfer fees .....

## EMPEROR NICHOLAS II OF RUSSIA.

## RECEPTION AT THE RUSSIAN CONSULATE.

A reception was held last Saturday afternoon by Consul and Mrs. Tiedmann in honour of the Name-day of the Emperor Nicholas II of Russia. Among those who attended the reception were the whole of the Consular Body, with the exception of the Consul for the Netherlands, who is absent in Canton on official duty, Rear-Admiral and Mrs. Cooper, Commodore and Mrs. Lyon, Sir Francis and Lady Pigott, the Chief of Staff of the German Cruiser Squadron, F. Boedicker, Commander and Mrs. Baill Taylor, Commander Wornbach and Ackermann and Officers of S.M.S. *Fuerst Bismarck*, *Leopard*, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. J. Gompertz, Professor of Botany Robert and Major P. Proby, M. A. J. Brackenbury, Private Secretary to H.E. the Governor, handed to Mr. Tiedmann a congratulatory letter from His Excellency, and Captain Heathcote conveyed the regrets of Major-General Broadwood from being prevented by official duties from attending personally. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the function proved a successful one in every respect.

## MR. WOODCOCK'S APPOINTMENT.

## LETTER FROM GOVERNMENT.

The following letter from Government was laid on the table at the meeting of the Sanitary Board last Tuesday afternoon—

Colonial Secretary's Office, 11th December, 1908.

Sir—I am directed to state for the information of the Board that, owing to the exigencies of the public service, it has been necessary for His Excellency the Governor to appoint Mr. Woodcock to act as Deputy Registrar and Accountant of the Supreme Court during the absence on leave of Mr. Lee-Jones, and that it will therefore be necessary for the present to continue the existing arrangement under which the duties of Secretary of the Sanitary Board are divided between Dr. Gibson and Mr. Craig. I regret that by oversight this information was not conveyed to you prior to the last meeting of the Board—I am, etc.

F. H. MAY, Colonial Secretary.

## THE CHEUNG-SHAWAN TRAGEDY.

## THE JURY'S VERDICT.

The trial of Che Yuen Fuk for the alleged murder of Choi Yui at Cheung-shan-wei, on the 25th ult., was continued at the Criminal Sessions on the 19th inst.

The case for the Crown having been concluded, Mr. Bellios (for the defence) stated that it was the deceased who first attacked the prisoner with the knife. In the scuffle the deceased dropped the knife, and it was then that the prisoner got possession of it. The prisoner was thrown to the ground, he was being trampled, and being the weaker man he snatched the knife and killed the deceased. In addition Counsel submitted that there was no evidence adduced by the Crown to prove premeditation.

The Attorney General addressed the jury, saying that the prisoner's story was incredible. He directed the jury that their verdict was murder or manslaughter.

The Chief Justice then summed up, and the jury, after retiring, returned a verdict of manslaughter (with a recommendation to mercy) and sentence of two years' hard labour was passed.

## FIRE AT LAI-CHI-KOK.

## SEVERAL MATSHEDS BURNED DOWN.

A fire which would have proved disastrous if it had not been for the timely arrival of the Fire Brigade broke out early last Wednesday morning (at 5.45 a.m.) to exact at Lai-chi-kok, near the tanks of the Standard Oil Co. at Stonecutter's Island. It may be remembered that only the other day a configuration took place in some godowns at Blackhead's Point owing to the carelessness of some coolies, thus showing that Hongkong, like most other places, is not immune from the ravages of the fire-fiend. It appears that the origin of the fire was due to a spark from the chimney just behind the oil tanks at Stonecutter's Island. At first, it seemed as if the oil-works itself were on fire and the sight of the configuration was a magnificent one as viewed across the water, huge tongues of flame shooting high up in the air for a considerable distance. The fire continued burning till 7.45 a.m. and there is no doubt that it would have done so for a much longer period had it not been for the prompt arrival of the Fire Brigade as soon as the alarm was raised. The Government fireboat also rendered invaluable aid in extinguishing the fire. Several matsheds were completely burned down, among which was a contractor's matshed and two belonging to Shewan Tomes & Co. At the time the fire broke out, a number of coolies were engaged in working concrete blocks and the great praise is due to the fire-fighters in putting out the fire before it was given time to reach serious consequences.

## OPIUM SMUGGLING.

## HEAVY SENTENCE.

"You are degrading your own countrymen and you have been trying to degrade others. Your act was a violation of the law and a crime against your own countrymen and others and you should suffer punishment. You are sentenced to six months' imprisonment and to pay a fine of P500."

Such was the close of the *Yui* opium smuggling case this morning in the criminal court. After the sentence of the court had been pronounced Yung Ah Che wanted to explain again how it all happened but his plea for mercy did not avail. Commitment papers were made out and he was transferred to Bilibid to serve his sentence.

## CANTON DAY BY DAY.

## ISSUE OF OPIUM LICENCES.

## [From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 15th December.

The issue of opium licences in the form of wooden boards to smokers should have commenced at the beginning of the 10th moon, but as these licences all bear the year of reign of the late Emperor Kwang Hsu; they have now to be altered into that of Hsuan Tung before they can be distributed. The Police authorities have given instructions to have the necessary alterations completed at an early date. The licences will be issued in the 1st moon of the next Chinese year.

## CONSULAR VISIT.

At 10 a.m. this morning the Viceroy received the Japanese Consul at Canton.

## CONSUL-GENERAL TO AUSTRALIA.

Taotai Liang Lau Fui, the newly appointed Chinese Consul-General to Australia, called on the Viceroy and other officials yesterday to take his leave. He will shortly leave here to proceed to his destination to take up his new appointment.

## NATIONAL MOURNING.

It is an established custom in China that, on the occasion of national mourning on account of the death of any Emperor, no theatrical performance is allowed for a period of one hundred days. Last week the Yiu Shan Yik theatrical troupe failed to comply with this observance and gave a performance in the Tsang Hing district. The matter has been reported to the Canton officials by the gentry of the locality, where the theatrical effects of the troupe have been detained.

## ARMED ROBBERY.

On the 8th day of this moon a daring armed robbery took place in a house belonging to one Kwok Tung, in the Nei Tang village, Far Yu, where the robbers carried away a large quantity of valuable articles in addition to two men, one named Kwok Ah Cheung and the other Kwok Ah Yiu, whose whereabouts have not yet been ascertained.

## A GERMAN SCHOOL.

In the 1st moon next Chinese new year, a German school will be opened in this city, at Po King street, in the Western suburb, under the directorship of a German representative here for the training of Chinese students in the German language. The proposed institution will be the first German school to be opened in the Southern capital of China for the benefit of Chinese youth. Prospects are being distributed inviting Chinese students to enter the school. The monthly fee is \$5 for a scholar and the course is one of three years. Students will also be supplied with stationery free of charge as well as books. Intending Chinese students must possess a fair knowledge of their own language.

## AN ENCOUNTER WITH ROBBERS.

At 4 p.m. on the 15th inst. attempts were made by the soldiers of the Lam Lo Mac camp, at Hngan, to raid a house near Fung Wong Kong, where some fifteen robbers were taking refuge. When the soldiers approached to surround the building, the robbers vigorously fought their way for life and all made good their escape by killing three of the soldiers and wounding two others; no arrests were made.

## A RISING FEAR.

The officials in this city seem to be in a state of alarm lest the anarchists sooner or later break out in open revolt. Though four of them have been arrested and two were beheaded as reported yesterday, the high authorities have given strict orders to their subordinates to exercise their utmost vigilance in keeping a sharp look-out against surprises.

## PROVINCIAL JUDGE.

The newly-appointed Canton Provincial Judge Wei King Tung took over the seal of office from Cheung Shik Fun to-day.

## LIKIN COLLECTION.

The total collection of Likin dues in Canton for the second ten days of the 11th moon as reported by the Likin officials amounted to 55,959.00 taels.

## ROBBERS WANTED.

Recently, rewards have been offered by the Military Camp at Ko Tong for the apprehension of some fifty robbers in that locality; the rewards offered vary from one hundred dollars to several hundred dollars for each of them.

## THE NEW BUND.

On Wednesday last, a portion of the new bund (about 120 ft.) opposite the Dutch Police Island, collapsed; no other damage has been sustained.

## CANTON MINT.

Expectant Prefect Ching Shu Chun has been appointed to be manager of the Canton Mint in succession to Mr. Tsoi Hong, as the latter has gone into mourning on account of the death of his parent.

## PRISONER ESCAPES.

A prisoner named Wong Ah Kwei, who has been spending eight months in the Namhoi jail since the 4th moon last, when he was sentenced to imprisonment for one year, felt tired of remaining there any longer. Early yesterday morning he effected his escape by climbing over the wall of the cell, while the jail warders were still in their beds.

## ARMY-RUNNING.

The officials of Kluengchow have wired to Canton requesting the authorities to at once detail a government gunboat to that port to cruise in the locality in order to prevent the smuggling of arms and ammunition by the outlaws, who are in the habit of importing contraband articles into the interior by way of Kluengchow.

## BLACKMAILERS BUSY.

It has been frequently reported that robbers have recently been sending blackmailing letters demanding money from influential people and native as well as foreign firms in the vicinity of Canton. It is not long ago that the International Banking Corporation in Shanghai received a blackmailing letter from the robber chief Luk Lau Ching, who demanded the payment of \$10,000. The Corporation has now again received a similar letter bearing the signature of several notorious robbers asking for a loan of one million dollars. The original letter has been forwarded through their Consul to the Viceroy for his information. The nature of these blackmailing letters might have probably aroused the suspicion of the recipients, but according to the opinion expressed by one of the native papers, the other day, it would appear that no fear need be entertained, though the letter contained various descriptions of threats. The paper stated that the robbers would not be so daring and foolish as to ask for a million dollars which it is beyond doubt would never be forthcoming, so it is generally agreed that the letter received by the Banking Corporation might not have really come from robbers, but from some people who had been robbed. The wisdom of the robber's nefarious plans are, no doubt, anxious to have their enemies arrested and punished, but they are unable to get the local officials to do so, fearing which they have hit upon the plan of sending false blackmailing letters to foreign firms in

## CHINESE GRATITUDE.

## TANG SHAO-YI IN AMERICA.

## San Francisco, Nov. 22.

Conveying to the American government the gratitude of the Chinese people for remittance of a debt amounting to nearly \$14,000,000, Tang Shao Yi, a powerful figure in the affairs of the Chinese empire, arrived in San Francisco to-day on the steamer *Monopoly*.

Thrills in the history of the oldest nation has there arisen occasion for appointment of such a commission as it domiciled to-night in the Fairmont hotel, and never has a foreign power been so strongly represented through diplomatic channels during the period of a crisis of world-wide import. In his honour the dragon flag flew from the mastsheads of a score of vessels in the bay, guns mounted on the harbour front boomed out a salute, and thousands of his countrymen, silk-robed or silk-hatted, thronged the dock where his escort landed.

## ACTING PROVINCIAL JUDGE.

The Acting Canton Provincial Judge Cheung Shik Fun, after handing over the seal of office to Wei King Tung on the 15th inst., left here on the following day for Shih Hing to resume his duties as Taotai of the prefectures of Shih Hing and Lo Ling.

## CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

The total collection of the second call of railway shares by the different institutions for the Canton-Hankow Railway Company during the 10th moon amounted to 1,100,599.08 taels, of which, 189,216.12 taels was collected by the Oi Yuk Charitable Institution; 216,005 taels by Wai Hing, 208,601.01 taels by Kwong Cheu; 16,550.17 taels by Kwong Yui; 10,970.57 taels by Shung Ching; 19,717.47 taels by Ming Shih; 23,495 taels by Shui Shui; 10,663.03 taels by the Changshing; 26,000 taels by Fatsan and 11,520 taels from Macao. Up to the present time the whole amount collected since the opening of the lists for the second call of shares on the 1st day of the 7th moon is said to have reached the round sum of nearly \$7,000,000, a little over half of the sum required.

## H.E. MAJOR-GENERAL BROADWOOD.

This morning, Major-General Broadwood arrived here by the steamer *Fatshan* and at 11 a.m. today H.E. Viceroy Chang Jen Chun received the distinguished visitor.

## RAILWAY STATION PILLAGED.

Two days ago, at 9 o'clock in the evening, the railway station of the Canton-Hankow Railway at Yuen Tam in the district of Ching Yuen was attacked and ransacked by a gang of about twenty robbers. The robbers made away with a sum of about \$200 being the amount of fares collected on that day from passengers, together with the clothes of the workmen in the station.

## A CHINESE FESTIVAL.

To-day being the Chinese winter solstice festival, the Chinese observed it as a general public holiday; there will therefore be no issue of the vernacular papers here.

## ANARCHISTS' DESSERT.

The two men, Chin Ching Wing and Tang Chun Fan, who were accomplices of the two who were beheaded the other day, will be sent to their respective districts to be imprisoned. No definite punishment has been meted out to them for want of sufficient evidence.

## PROTECTION AGAINST PIRATES.

During the winter season the pirates are more active than at other times in the prefecture of Waichow, so the Commander-in-Chief Chuan Ping Chik has obtained permission from the Viceroy to build a dozen more guard-boats to be added to his force there in order to give adequate protection to the vessels trading in that locality.

## H.E. MAJOR-GENERAL BROADWOOD.

General Broadwood arrived here yesterday morning and he will probably stay here for a few days more. This morning the distinguished visitor took a trip on those sections of the Canton-Hankow Railway already opened and he will to-morrow visit the different prominent colleges in the city. H.E. Viceroy Chang Jen-chun will personally proceed to the Shamen to return an official call on General Broadwood on the 24th inst., at 10 a.m., at the British Consulate.

## THE CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

Admiral Li Chun will to-morrow make an inspection of the Kung Po Camp to ascertain which of the prisoners detained there should receive the capital punishment and which of them should be set free next year on the occasion of the accession to the Throne of the new Emperor Hsuan Tung, and to report accordingly to the Viceroy for his information and decision in the matter.

## OFFICIAL CHANGES.

A rumour is current in mandarin circles here to the effect that the present Commander-in-Chief Chuan Ping Chik will shortly be transferred to the Capital for service and that Commander Shing will be appointed to Canton to replace him.

## PROPOSED PROHIBITION OF GAMBLING.

It is reported from Peking that, while conferring with a certain high official, a Cantonese, the Regent suggested the abolition of the gambling practice in the province of Kwangtung, the vice existing in this province only at present.

## A PRISONER'S ESCAPE.

A reward of \$30 has been offered for the recapture of the runaway prisoner Wang Ah Kun who escaped from the Namhoi goal the other day. The goal warder has now been placed in the former's stead by the Namhoi magistrate for neglect of duty pending the recovery of the prisoner.

## FIRE.

At 2 o'clock to-day a fire broke out in Choi Lan street near Sha Koo and destroyed one house. The adjacent houses have also sustained some damage.

## CONSUL-GENERAL FOR AUSTRALIA.

Taotai Liang Lau Fui, the newly-appointed Chinese Consul-General to Australia, left here yesterday afternoon by the steamer *Charles Hardouin* for Hongkong, en route to his destination to take up his new appointment. Taotai Liang's suite consists of only a few members.

## CANTON GOVERNMENT ARSENAL.

Mr. Hui Tung Wo has been appointed by the Viceroy to be Director of the Canton Government Arsenal.

## WINTER SOLISTICE.

Owing to the solemn occasion of national mourning, the officials in this city did not call on one another to offer congratulations yesterday for the festival of the Winter Solstice.

## CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

The Viceroy has given instructions to the officials in all the different districts in this province to make the necessary arrangements for the institution of Councils at an early date preparatory to the introduction of Constitutional Government for China.

In order to save five cents, which it would have cost him in a tramcar from Kennedy Town to Causeway Bay, Charman Singh, a watchman of the Rope Factory, paid dearly for his meanness last Monday. Charman wanted to come to town on Sunday night in a tramcar, but, of course, did not wish to pay for the ride. His *modus operandi* was this. He awaited the arrival of a car and, as this, he swarmed to the door, got on the handle in such a way as to alight and conduct himself at the approach of the car. Charman was enjoying the cheap ride greatly, when he was grabbed by Mr. W. Glendinning, the traffic inspector, and escorted to the lock-up. He had to pay \$5, which he had laughed in the Police Court on Monday morning.

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